

Appl. No. 09/687,151
Armdt. dated February 17, 2006
Preliminary Amendment

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving a program by a user location that is sent from a content distributor, the method comprising:

receiving the program at the user location as a linearly scheduled program, which can be viewed on a channel;

processing receiving a first portion of the program at the user location, wherein the first portion is at least one eighth of the program;

storing the first portion of the program at the user location;

detecting a user request for the program after storage of the first portion; and

receiving a second portion of the program in response to the detecting the user request.

2. (Original) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, further comprising playing the first portion.

3. (Original) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 2, wherein the playing the first portion takes a first time that is equal to or greater than a second time associated with the receiving the second portion.

4. (Original) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, wherein the detecting the user request comprises:

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receiving a wireless request from a remote control; and
processing the wireless request to determine a desired program.

5. (Original) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, wherein the program consists of the first portion and the second portion.

6. (Original) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, wherein the user location comprises a set top box.

7. (Original) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, wherein the storing the first portion comprises storing the first portion on a mass storage device associated with a set top box that is proximate to the user location.

8. (Original) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

determining a subset of programs from a linear schedule of programs;
dividing each of the subset of programs into a respective first portion and a respective second portion; and

transmitting a plurality of respective first portions to the user location.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting a content program to a user location, the method comprising:

determining a linear schedule of content programs wherein each content program comprises a first segment and a second segment;

storing a second set of second segments remotely from the user location;
transmitting the linear schedule of content programs in a format that is viewable in real-time, wherein:

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the linear schedule of content programs comprises a first set of first segments to the user location, and wherein
each of the first set of first segments is at least fifteen minutes in playback length;
storing the first set of first segments at the user location before a request by a user for one of the content programs; and
transmitting one of the second set of second segments to the user location after the a request by the a user for one of the content programs.

10. (Original) The method for transmitting the content program to the user location as recited in claim 9, wherein at least one of the content programs comprises a commercial.

11. (Original) The method for transmitting the content program to the user location as recited in claim 9, further comprising playing the first segment.

12. (Currently Amended) The method for transmitting the content program to the user location as recited in claim 11, wherein the playing the requested first segment takes a first time that is equal to or greater than a second time associated with the transmitting the requested respective second segment.

13. (Original) The method for transmitting the content program to the user location as recited in claim 9, wherein the content program consists of the first segment and the second segment.

14-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, wherein the first portion is at least one fourth of the program.

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22. (Previously Presented) The method for transmitting the content program to the user location as recited in claim 9, wherein the first segment is at least thirty minutes in playback length.

23. (Canceled)

24. (New) The method for transmitting the content program to the user location as recited in claim 9, wherein the first and second sets are transmitted with different media chosen from a group consisting of a multicast media or a singlecast media.

25. (New) The method for transmitting the content program to the user location as recited in claim 9, wherein the first-listed transmitting step is performed with a television channel media and the second-listed transmitting step is performed with a broadband network media.

26. (New) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, wherein the first and second portions are received with different media chosen from a group consisting of a multicast media or a singlecast media.

27. (New) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of receiving a plurality of portions of the program in response to the detecting the user request, wherein the second portion is one of the plurality of portions.

28. (New) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of playing the first portion before the second portion.

29. (New) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, wherein:

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the first-listed receiving step comprises a step of downloading the first portion from a channel; and

the second-listed receiving step comprises a step of downloading the second portion from the channel.

30. (New) A method for transmitting a content program to a user location, the method comprising:

determining a linear schedule of content programs wherein each content program comprises a first segment and a second segment;

storing a second set of second segments remotely from the user location;
transmitting the linear schedule of content programs, wherein:

the linear schedule of content programs comprises a first set of first segments, and

each of the first set of first segments is at least fifteen minutes in playback length;

storing the first set of first segments at the user location before a request by a user for one of the content programs;

transmitting one of the second set of second segments to the user location after the request by the user for one of the content programs, wherein the first and second sets are transmitted with different media chosen from a group consisting of a multicast media or a singlecast media; and

playing the requested content program in a contiguous fashion, wherein the playing of the requested first segment of the content program takes a first time that is equal to or greater than a second time associated with the transmitting the second segment of the requested content program.